

---

# A New Agenda

## Electoral Programme of the Communist Party of Aotearoa

### What Can We Expect from the Election?

Parliamentary elections provide an opportunity for the capitalist class to test their ability to deceive the masses of the people. Every three years we are asked to choose between capitalist parties offering minor variations of the same diet of falling wages, reduced social services, poverty and desperation for many, and support for imperialist wars.

The working class has made repeated attempts to elect representatives to parliament but the capitalists have been adept at coopting and corrupting these. After all, parliamentary democracy is a fundamental capitalist institution; the capitalists created parliaments to secure their power after the defeat of feudalism centuries ago. They set the rules and know the game backwards.

Where workers' parties have come at all close to gaining significant power, as in Germany in the 1920s or Chile in the 1970s, the armed forces have stepped in. Even New Zealand in the 1930s saw the capitalists preparing for a military coup should Labour adopt extremist policies.

Workers have only forced reforms on the capitalist class when we have mobilised in great numbers around central demands, such as the welfare measures in the 1890s and 1930s or the social reforms of the 1970s.

### Balance of Forces

It is a very different picture today. There have been many impressive mobilisations against the attacks on our living standards in the past decade and a number of victories. But the peoples' organisations are still too weak to force a major change of direction on the capitalist class, let alone a comprehensive progressive agenda.

Until peoples' organisations can organise sustained mass mobilisations against the attacks on our living standards, we will be unable to undertake the more difficult task of mobilising thousands of votes for a comprehensive policy programme. Parliamentary elections are the home ground of the capitalists; their representatives are highly resourced, supported by scores of paid organisers, vast advertising budgets, and highly experienced and skilled in manipulation and deceit.

### Electoral Choices

In this context, many people feel obliged to support one of the capitalist parliamentary parties as "the lesser evil". This is mistaken, however, as it strengthens those forces that are trying to defeat us. For example, if the Labour Party gains a majority of seats in parliament, as it is aiming for, it will no longer have to make concessions the Alliance demanded, such as increasing the minimum wage or parental leave.

Others, wanting to wave the flag for socialism, will add to the handful of votes recorded by fringe left wing candidates. This too is mistaken as it weakens the forces of the left, adding to the impression that left-wingers are isolated from the real concerns of working people.

The Communist Party does not shy away from the electoral struggle, however. We do not seek salvation in the false promises of the capitalist parties nor offer false hope of a parliamentary road to socialism. We see the election as an opportunity to criticise capitalism, but not with empty phrases.

We thus offer the following electoral programme as a rallying point for the peoples' organisations. We draw these demands from the major problems facing the people of Aotearoa and offer them in a manner that would strengthen the position of the masses. This programme could be feasibly implemented by a parliamentary majority supported by sustained mobilisation of the people against the inevitable resistance of the foreign capitalists and their local agents.

---

---

# A Programme for the People's Movements

## Higher Living Standards

- Legislate annual wage increases to exceed inflation rate
- Pay equity tribunals to order wage increases in female occupations
- Raise the minimum wage to \$10 for all ages
- Funding to enforce healthier & safer workplaces
- Four weeks annual leave
- Fourteen weeks paid parental leave
- Legislate employer provision of free childcare
- Reduce working week to 40 hours
- Abolish GST on food and social services
- Abolish income tax on gross incomes below \$20,000

## Deliver on Treaty Rights

- Fund Waitangi Tribunal to hear and address claims without further delay
- Dedicate TVNZ resources to establishing Maori TV until autonomous broadcasting is established
- Expand funding to increase capacity of Maori communities to participate in society
- Expand funding to increase the numbers of Maori in education and training

## Restore the Social Fabric

- Zero tolerance for unemployment – unemployment benefit to be replaced by fulltime permanent jobs in the state service
- End privatisation of local authority housing
- Expand stocks of high quality state housing
- Increase social worker numbers
- A large state investment in cultural activities, especially for young people
- Promote a culture of responsible alcohol and drug use, alongside cannabis decriminalisation

## Free Education

- Abolish fees on tertiary education
- Write off the student loan mountain
- Increase student allowances to standard benefit level, for all post-secondary training
- Increase teacher numbers to allow a maximum 1:20 teaching staff/student ratio

## Restore Public Health

- Boost funding for health to 8% GDP
- Increase nursing and doctor numbers
- Abolish charges for doctors visits

- Increased funding for youth mental health services

## A Clean Green Aotearoa

- Ban the commercial release of genetically engineered organisms in Aotearoa
- Renationalise and fund the railways as a real alternative to cars and road transport
- Support advanced research and development in organic farming
- Tax carbon emissions and imports

## Develop Advanced Industry

- Force productivity increases through full employment and rising real wages
- State regulation to reduce the costs and force the construction of a national broadband infrastructure.
- New state corporations to establish advanced industries.
- Increase funding for tertiary education.
- Prohibit foreign acquisition of local companies and lands.
- Expand the Reserve Bank's primary targets to include economic growth and exchange rate stability.

## Tax the Rich

- Tax on the value of financial transactions
- Capital gains tax excluding occupied homes
- Tax on foreign exchange transactions
- Tax on luxury consumer items
- Higher taxes on incomes above \$100,000

## A More Efficient and Democratic Government

- End the siphoning of taxes into the Superannuation Fund
- Reap the benefits of ending unemployment and social security with reduced policing and prison spending
- Expand revenue base through income from state owned corporations
- Introduce a democratically elected head of state
- Establishment of a workplace and hapu-based legislative council

## Withdraw from the US War Drive

- No participation in overseas military actions as 'peacekeepers' or otherwise
- Reduce military and security spending
- Speak out in international forums in support of the victims of US imperialist aggression

The political programme advanced by the Communist Party for this election will be fiercely resisted by US capital in New Zealand and their local agents. But the policies can be forced on them if the people of Aotearoa are mobilised in sufficient numbers. These policies will strengthen the position of the working class, the oppressed Maori nation, much of the middle class and some local capitalists against foreign capital. But while US capital and their local agents control the economy and run the state, there will be increasingly severe reaction to further encroachments on their power and profits.

---

---

# For a Peoples' Republic of Aotearoa

Significant gains for the people of Aotearoa will only come with the ousting of US imperialism and their local agents. The overthrow of these parasites will be a national democratic revolution with a socialist orientation.

The revolution is nationalist in that its aim is the overthrow of the imperialist yoke. The revolution is democratic in that its aim is to defend the democratic rights of the people and to advance the incomplete democratic rights of the oppressed Maori nation, the incomplete democratic rights of women, and the incomplete democratic rights of national minorities. The revolution has a socialist orientation because it cannot be carried out except under the leadership of the working class, whose immediate interest in capitalist society, is socialism. The victory of the national democratic revolution will be immediately accompanied by the commencement of the construction of socialism.

## Political

The national democratic revolution will overthrow the dictatorship of foreign capital and their lackeys and replace it with a Peoples' Republic of the working class, the Maori nation, the small middle class and other anti-imperialists.

Peoples' Congresses at local and national levels, elected on the basis of universal suffrage, will govern Aotearoa. Because the imperialism profits from the oppression of the national minorities and women, the development of democracy in Aotearoa is incomplete and will not be carried through by the capitalist class. Because of the remaining need to win democratic equality for the national minorities and women, the new government in Aotearoa will have the form of a Peoples' Democratic Republic.

Recognition will be given to the sovereignty of the Maori over Aotearoa and the Treaty of Waitangi honoured. The peoples' government will work for the equality of all nationalities, the revival the languages and cultures of the national minorities. White chauvinism and racism will be actively fought.

The Peoples' Democratic Republic will also fulfil the incomplete democratic rights of women by ending obstacles to their equal participation in society. Comprehensive public child-care will be established. Paid parental leave, flexible working hours and a shorter working day will be legislated, as will the right to free contraception and safe legal abortion. Male supremacy would be vigorously combated.

The Peoples' Democratic Republic will prepare the way for the construction of socialist political institutions to unleash the full participation of the working class in society.

## Economic

The Peoples' Democratic Republic will rebuild the economy on the basis of self-reliance. The property of the imperialists, compradors, and big domestic monopolists will be confiscated; that unjustly appropriated from Maori will be immediately returned. The state sector will become the leading force in the economy. Small and medium capital will be allowed to continue accumulating, but under notice that the socialist state will buy them out in the future.

The Peoples' Democratic Republic will develop its own internal credit system and give a priority to developing heavy and advanced industry necessary for self-reliance. The Peoples' Democratic Republic will trade with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, most likely this will be mainly with other anti-imperialist nations.

Building an advanced self-reliant will pave the way for the socialisation of, first, the leading sectors of the economy and the fullest participation of workers in the day-to-day running of the economy.

## Cultural

A national, scientific and mass culture will replace the colonial, idealist, elitist culture of the reactionary ruling classes. Traditional national cultural forms will be integrated with the most modern internationalist insights. The revolutionary democratic culture will express the heroic struggles and aspirations of the masses.

---

---

## **International**

The revolutionary struggle in Aotearoa contributes to the international struggle of against US imperialism under the principle of proletarian internationalism and as part of the international united front. Wherever possible, direct relations with fraternal parties will be established.

The Peoples' Democratic Republic will maintain diplomatic and trade relations with all countries that recognise the sovereignty of the people of Aotearoa and which engage in such relations for mutual benefit. All unequal treaties will be severed. The warmest relations will be developed with all communist parties and revolutionary movements fighting imperialism, revisionism, and reaction.

## **Socialist Orientation**

Immediately on the victory of the national democratic struggle, the working class under the leadership of the Communist Party will commence constructing the conditions for socialism and the transformation of the Peoples' Democratic Republic into a Socialist Peoples' Republic. The working class relies its own strength and on the basic alliance with the Māori nation for this transformation.

The state and cooperative sectors of the economy will be promoted and advanced by the working class to create the economic base for socialism. Workers will be called on to revolutionise society in line with the socialisation of production. Promotion of the democratic rights of Māori and women will be to the forefront of this great struggle. Particular attention will be given to raising the economic, social and cultural level of people who especially suffered under capitalism. More extensive and explicit rights for the working class, oppressed nationalities, women and other social groups would also be guaranteed. The right to be free of exploitation would be primary over any property rights. The right to a job, today denied for thousands of people, would be guaranteed. The right to education and health care would be raised as basic human rights and resources concentrated in these areas to make this a reality. A socialist society can give a great deal more attention and resources to arts, sports, education, sciences, humanities and popular entertainment. Cultural and political life will blossom outside the shadow of the dollar.

The socialist people's democracy will be the form of the political rule of the working class in Aotearoa, the specific form of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Democracy will be ensured for the vast majority and the national minorities and dictatorship exercised over a particular class - the former and would-be oppressors. As such, socialism will be the first stage of the development towards communism, a truly classless society. Communism is a long time off. It will be possible when worldwide economic, ideological and social development will allow the gradual amalgamation of peoples into one, making states themselves unnecessary. Communism will realise the ideal "from each according to one's ability, to each according to one's need." Classes will have largely disappeared, the state will "wither" away, and an exciting new era of human freedom and prosperity will arise.

## **Workers, Join Your Party**

Every political party defends the interest of one class or another in society. On all questions, in every battle, the Communist Party defends the interests of the working class, and works to prepare its victory over the capitalists. It is made up those men and women who are most conscious of the need to fight, the most determined to fight for the liberation of their whole class and of all the oppressed people and oppressed nationalities.

The Party's role is to educate, organise and mobilise the working class. The Party is the organisation that can orient the struggle of the entire class. It can bring an overall perspective to each branch of the workers' movement and unite all the isolated battles into one powerful revolutionary storm. The Party can raise the spontaneous anger of the workers to the level of conscious political struggle to put an end to this criminal system. In this sense, the revolutionary communist party is the vanguard of the working class.

**Published by the Communist Party of Aotearoa**

For further information view: <http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/cpa>  
or email: [cpa@clear.net.nz](mailto:cpa@clear.net.nz)

---

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.